

Arizona Charter Schools Program Grant

Application Training
November 2, 2011

AZ CSP

- ▶ Arizona Department of Education (ADE) was awarded \$54,000,000 in 2009 to support the creation of 92 high quality charter schools in Arizona over five years through a competitive grant process.
- ▶ ADE established the AZ Charter School Program (AZ CSP) Office to oversee the grant program.

Grant Application Timeline 2013–2015

- ▶ Application Training – November 2, 2011
- ▶ Application Due Date – January 26, 2012
- ▶ Reviewers' Evaluations Due – February 24, 2012
- ▶ Award Recommendations to SBE – March 8, 2012
- ▶ SBE Award Approval – March 26, 2012
- ▶ Awarded School GME Training – March 30, 2012

CSP's Intent

The CSP provides support for planning, program design, and initial implementation of charter schools. The intent of the program is to expand the number of high quality charter schools and to give students more educational opportunities, resulting in higher student achievement.

AZ CSP Goals

- ▶ Increase the number of high quality charter schools in Arizona, particularly those serving students most at risk in rural and urban settings;
- ▶ Improve student achievement to high academic standards in AZ CSP schools; and,
- ▶ Improve high school graduation rates in AZ CSP schools and prepare students for higher education or career readiness.

AZ CSP Grant Purpose

- ▶ The Arizona Charter Schools Program (AZ CSP) is a competitive, discretionary grant which offers financial incentives to new charter entities that can demonstrate the knowledge, skill and capacity to create and implement challenging curriculum, engaging instruction and rigorous assessment.

Grant Purpose, continued

- ▶ Exemplars of challenging curriculum include, but are not limited to, the following:
 - Advanced Placement
 - International Baccalaureate
 - ACT Quality Core
 - School-developed curriculum with enhanced standards that can be assessed post-10th grade AIMS and serve as predictors of college, technical school and career readiness.

AZ CSP Targeted Outcomes

- ▶ AZ CSP charter schools serving high school students will demonstrate a graduation rate higher than the state average for charter schools serving similar student demographics.
- ▶ 80% of AZ CSP charter high school students will meet or exceed challenging Arizona Academic Standards on each content area of AIMS.
 - Awarded schools will align their practice with new Common Core Standards

AZ CSP Targeted Outcomes

- ▶ AZ CSP charter high school students will exceed the state average on the ACT or SAT.
- ▶ AZ CSP charter schools serving high school students will have more students enrolled in Advanced Placement courses or academic courses of equal rigor.

Program Periods

- ▶ Planning and Program Design (max 18 months) occurs prior to opening of the charter school.*
- ▶ Implementation (max 24 months) occurs after the school opens for students.

* An informal survey conducted by AZ CSP revealed that schools which took advantage of the full planning period (up to 18 months) experienced a successful startup.

Eligible Expenses

- ▶ Eligible expenses are those incurred from the date of the grant award. Pre-award costs related to project outcomes incurred between the time of the grant training and the grant award are ineligible and cannot be reimbursed.
- ▶ State and federal regulation do not permit Planning or Implementation Grant funds to be used for vehicles, renovation projects, construction and non institutional furniture. Moreover, establishment of petty cash funds or purchases of food and entertainment are strictly prohibited.

Eligible Planning Expenses

- ▶ According to Section 5204 (f)(3)(A) of the Federal CSP statute, an eligible applicant receiving a Charter Schools Program sub-grant may use the sub-grant funds only for post-award planning and design of the educational program, which may include the following:
 - Refinement of the desired educational results and the methods for measuring progress toward achieving those results;
 - Professional development of teachers and other staff who will work in the charter school.

Planning

- ▶ Planning funds can also be used for the following:
 - Development of a marketing plan to advertise the school in the community prior to its opening.
 - Employing staff necessary to plan the school such as a planning principal, a registrar, a secretary.
 - Funding contracts with vendors to provide specific services for the planning of the school.
 - Recruitment and training of teachers.
 - Teacher training may be supported by stipends to teachers from grant funds.

Ineligible Planning Expenses

- ▶ Planning funds may NOT be used for the following:
 - The renovation or improvement of facilities.
 - Facilities infrastructure.
 - To support a CMO or vendor without a specific contract for services provided.
 - Any other charter entity even if the entity is in the same location as the awarded entity.
 - Salaries for school personnel that are covered by state funds once the school commences.

Implementation

- ▶ Implementation grants are twenty-four months in length and will terminate from the date they are awarded.
- ▶ Implementation begins once the entity has an approved facility and is ready to open.
- ▶ Approved facility means that the school has a Certificate of Occupancy for educational use from its municipal Building Services Department and approval from the State Fire Marshall.
- ▶ AHERA (asbestos) is regulated by the EPA and is beyond sponsor and AZ CSP purview.

Implementation Funds

- ▶ According to Section 5204 (f)(3)(B) of the Federal CSP statute, an eligible applicant receiving a Charter Schools Program grant or sub-grant may use the grant or sub-grant funds only for:
 - informing the community about the school;
 - acquiring necessary equipment and educational materials and supplies;
 - acquiring or developing curriculum materials; and
 - other initial operational costs that cannot be met from State or local sources.

► End of Part I

Application Training

- ▶ Prepare to use the following:
 - ▶ Application
 - ▶ Evaluation rubric
 - ▶ Application examples

Application Components

- ▶ Budget Section – Business and Financial Administration
 - Budget numbers
 - Budget narrative
- ▶ Preference Points Eligibility Section
- ▶ Narrative Component Section
 - Executive Summary
 - Section 1 – Program Description
 - Section 2 – Governance and Accountability
 - Section 3 – Governance Sustainability and Succession
 - Section 4 – Waivers
 - Section 5 – Marketing and Outreach

Use the Scoring Rubric

- ▶ The bolded words highlight the criteria used by application reviewers to assess and score each Narrative Component.
- ▶ Note: AZ CSP monitoring is directly aligned with application components.

Rubric Examples

- ▶ 1.3 Description of **how** the chosen curriculum is a **strong match** for the target student population of the charter school.
- ▶ 1.8 **Explanation** of how the reading program will lead to **comprehension mastery** for all the grades the school will serve.
- ▶ 2.2a **Description** of **how** the governing body will **create** and **sustain** its strategic plan.

AZ CSP Contact Information

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